

[Edit Policy](#)



UNIVERSITY
of
 VIRGINIA

SEC-032: Open Burn and Open Flame Operations at the University of Virginia

Date: 01/18/2013 Status: Final Policy Type: University

Contact Office: [Environmental Health and Safety, Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office](#)

Oversight Executive: Vice President for Research

Applies To: Academic Division and the Medical Center.

Table of Contents:

[Policy Statement](#)

1. [Exemptions](#)

[Procedures](#)

Reason for Policy:

The University strives to protect life and property by reducing the risks posed to University buildings, property, and occupants from the use and operation of an open burn and open flame.

Definition of Terms in Statement:

- **Open Burning:**
 The burning of materials wherein products of combustion are emitted directly into the ambient air without passing through a stack or chimney from an enclosed chamber. Examples include but are not limited to: campfires, bon fires, and fire pits.
- **Open Flame and Open Flame Devices:**
 For the purpose of this policy, open flame and open flame devices shall include but are not limited to candles, tiki torches and oil lanterns. [Note: Users of cutting torches and welding equipment must satisfy requirements outlined under separate fire code regulations. For information on these regulations, contact the Office of Environmental Health & Safety.]
- **University Facility:**
 Any defined space of the University, including a room, lab, series of labs, building or controlled outdoor area.
- **University Property:**
 Land or buildings that the University owns or leases and that is under the direct control of the Board of Visitors. University property also includes premises the University uses for activities

of its offices, departments, personnel or students.

Policy Statement:

Unless otherwise permitted under this policy, a person shall not kindle or maintain or authorize to be kindled or maintained any open burning unless it is: (1) approved by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) or the University of Virginia Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office as appropriate; and (2) conducted in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, Statewide burning laws, and applicable local City and County codes and regulations. [Note: The University of Virginia Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector is sometimes referred to as a "Fire Marshal." This individual has no delegated authority from the State Fire Marshal, but does have extensive training in fire prevention and the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code.]

Unless otherwise permitted under this policy a person shall not use an open flame or open flame device unless it is: (1) approved by EHS or the UVA Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office as appropriate; (2) conducted in accordance with applicable University or Medical Center procedures; and (3) conducted in accordance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. A person shall not use an open flame or open flame device in any place where flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored.

Open burn and open flame device use and operation in any University facility or on University property must be operated and managed in accordance with this policy.

A request must be made to the Office of Environmental Health & Safety or the University of Virginia Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office for the purpose of an open burn and open flame device use and operation. EHS and/or the UVA Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector will review the request to ensure the open burn and open flame device is used in accordance with and meets the requirements of (1) the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code; (2) Statewide Burning Laws; (3) EHS procedures; (4) UVA Medical Center procedures; and (5) applicable local City and County codes and regulations. Each request will be reviewed to ensure the safety of the University's faculty, staff, students, patients and visitors; and for stewardship of the University's facilities and property.

The fire code representative from EHS or UVA Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office (or his/her designee) shall order any fire which is deemed as non-compliant or creates a hazard or nuisance to be extinguished.

1. Exemptions:

The following are exempted from the requirements of this policy:

- a. Outdoor cooking operations where propane and charcoal are used in a safe manner. Ashes, cinders and coals shall be disposed of in an approved manner. Contact EHS or the University of Virginia Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector for disposal guidelines.)
- b. Indoor and outdoor use of Sterno, for the purpose of warming foods. Such use should be maintained and operated in an approved manner. Contact the EHS or the University of Virginia Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector for operating guidelines.
- c. Laboratory flame producing equipment.

Procedures:

Academic Division: All requests for the use and operation of an open burn and an open flame device must be submitted to the Office of Environmental Health and Safety by calling 434-243-1711 or email your request to fire-safety@virginia.edu at least three weeks prior to the event.

Medical Center: All requests for the use and operation of an open burn and open flame device at the UVA Medical Center must be submitted to the UVA Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector by calling

982-6420 or email your request to aco9m@virginia.edu as soon as possible.

Additional requirements may apply at the discretion of the fire code representative from EHS or UVA Medical Center Fire Protection Inspector's Office.

Related Information:

Fire Extinguisher training is available through the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.

[SEC-018, Fireworks Display](#)

[SEC-028, No Smoking or Vaping](#)

Major Category: Safety, Security and Environmental Quality

Approved by, Date: Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, 01/18/2013

Revision History: This is the first version of this policy.

Source URL: <https://uvapolicy.virginia.edu/policy/SEC-032>

--- ARCHIVED ---